

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Final Office Action dated May 11, 2009 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this response, claim 1 is hereby amended. No new matter is added. Accordingly, claim 1 is pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claim is respectfully requested.

Firstly, claim rejections under 35 USC 112 are traversed as the following reasons.

Lines 1~8 of claim 1 is amended as “~the flat fluorescent lamp including a front glass substrate provided with a plurality of grooves formed in ~~the predetermined~~ portions except the circumference of the front glass substrate and ~~the portion~~ a part for forming members including ~~such as~~ cylindrical electrodes, and a fluorescent substance coating film formed on the inner surface of the front glass substrate except the circumference; a rear glass substrate provided with the plurality of grooves formed in ~~the predetermined~~ portions except the circumference of the rear glass substrate and the part ~~portion~~ for forming members including ~~such as~~ the cylindrical electrodes,~.”

In amended claim 1, “the predetermined portions” is replaced to “portions,” “the portion” of line 3 is replaced to “a part,” “the portion” is replaced to “the part” and “such as” is replaced to “including.” Due to this amendment, claims rejections under 35 USC 112 are overcome. Therefore, claim rejections under 35 USC 112 should be withdrawn.

Further, double patenting is traversed. Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the merits of the rejection, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the provisional rejection because the rejection is merely provisional and the copending application has not yet issued.

Applicants believe the application is in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps

necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Dated: August 10, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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